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✓ Latest release

Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia

Labour participation potential, underemployment and job attachment, job search experience, labour mobility, hours worked, industry and occupation.

Reference period February 2025

Released 29/07/2025

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Key statistics

In February 2025:

- 1.7 million people were not working but wanted to work
- the job mobility rate was 7.7%, a decrease from February 2024 (8.0%)
- the annual retrenchment rate was 1.9%, an increase from 1.7% in February 2024
- of the 14.7 million employed people (May 2025), 1.3 million preferred to work more hours

Statistics from the Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey are published in three topic-based releases:

- [Potential workers \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/feb-2025\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/feb-2025)
- [Job mobility \(/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/feb-2025\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/feb-2025)
- [Underemployed workers \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/underemployed-workers/feb-2025\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/underemployed-workers/feb-2025)

North Queensland Floods

Flooding in Northern Queensland in February 2025, particularly in Townsville, resulted in some disruptions to the collection of the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The ABS reviewed the data for Townsville SA4 and revised the February LFS estimates with imputed sample responses for that area, consistent with the approach used to address impacts from previous natural disasters.

Estimates for PJSM were benchmarked to align with these revised LFS estimates, using the standard weighting and estimation approach. For more information, refer to the March 2025 release of [Labour Force, Australia](https://statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/mar-2025) ([/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/mar-2025](https://statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/mar-2025)).

Microdata and Tablebuilder

Microdata from the PJSM survey for 2015 to 2025 will be released in [TableBuilder](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder) ([/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder)) and [DataLab](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab) ([/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab)) (as a supplementary file to the [Longitudinal Labour Force](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia) ([/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia))) on 7 August 2025. For more information, refer to [Microdata and TableBuilder: Participation, Job Search and Mobility](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia) ([/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia](https://statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia)).

Data downloads

How to use tables

1. Select a state or territory
2. The estimates shown in the table are for the most recent time period (February 2024)
3. The corresponding Time Series ID links to series of annual estimates for earlier time periods (2015 to 2023)

Australian Bureau of Statistics Time Series Workbook

6228.0 Potential workers
Table 1. Potential workers and discouraged job seekers
Released at 11:30 am (Canberra time) Fri 29 Apr 2022
Table 1.2 - Potential workers and discouraged job seekers by state and territory, February 2021

Select a state or territory:	Australian Capital Territory			Time Series IDs		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Expanded labour force status						
Civilian population	342.8	165.7	177.1	A125173330R	A125184562F	A125178946C
Employed	235.6	118.8	116.9	A125173294T	A125184526W	A125178910A
Underemployed (expanded definition)	21.0	11.7	9.3	A125173334X	A125184566R	A125178950V
Underemployed (headline definition)	12.5	6.7	5.8	A125173338J	A125184570F	A125178954C
Potential workers	30.3	11.8	18.5	A125173298A	A125184530L	A125178914K
Potential workers with job attachment (away from work or waiting to start)	5.4	2.7	2.7	A125173302F	A125184534W	A125178918V
Had a job to go to and available within 4 weeks	4.6	2.7	2.0	A125173322R	A125184554F	A125178938C
Had a job to go to and available last week (a sub-group of unemployed)	2.7	1.8	0.9	A125173282J	A125184514L	A125178898W
Had a job to go to and available within 4 weeks (but not last week)	1.9	0.9	1.1	A125173342X	A125184574R	A125178958L
Had a job to go to and not available within 4 weeks	0.8	0.0	0.8	A125173326X	A125184558R	A125178942V
Potential workers without job attachment	25.0	9.2	15.8	A125173354J	A125184586X	A125178970C
Wanted to work, actively looking and available within 4 weeks	7.9	3.5	4.5	A125173286T	A125184510F	A125178902A
Wanted to work, actively looking and available last week (a sub-group of unemployed)	7.5	3.2	4.3	A125173262X	A125184510F	A125178878L
Wanted to work, actively looking and available within 4 weeks (but not last week)	0.4	0.3	0.2	A125173274J	A125184510F	A125178890C
Wanted to work, actively looking and not available within 4 weeks	0.0	0.0	0.0	A125173306R	A125184538F	A125178922K
Wanted to work, available within 4 weeks but not actively looking	14.7	5.2	9.5	A125173276T	A125184510C	A125178894L
Discouraged job seekers - available within 4 weeks but discouraged from actively looking	1.6	0.9	0.7	A125173310F	A125184542W	A125178926V
Other job seekers - available within 4 weeks but not actively looking for other reasons	13.0	4.6	8.4	A125173314R	A125184546F	A125178930K
Wanted to work, not available within 4 weeks and not actively looking	2.4	0.5	1.9	A125173358T	A125184590R	A125178974L

Potential workers

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Table 1. Potential workers and discouraged job seekers

[Download XLSX](#)
(672.93 KB)

Table 2. Characteristics of discouraged job seekers and other potential workers

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[5.33 MB]

Table 3. Duration since last job and main activity of discouraged job seekers and other potential workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[4.37 MB]

Table 4. Reasons did not actively look for work

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.88 MB]

Table 5. Job search experience of unemployed persons

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[315.91 KB]

Table 6. Characteristics of successful and unsuccessful job search experience

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[1.7 MB]

Table 7. Looking for work

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[2.76 MB]

Job mobility

[↓ Download all \(12.34 MB\)](#)

Table 1. Labour mobility, retrenchments and duration of employment

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[573.63 KB]

Table 2. Retrenchments and other reasons for ceasing a job last year

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[3.26 MB]

Table 3. Changes in employment characteristics of people employed last year

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1014.4 KB]

Table 4. Separations and other changes in employment of people employed last year by industry

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[2.9 MB]

Table 5. Engagements and other changes in employment of people employed last year by industry

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[2.87 MB]

Table 6. Separations and other changes in employment of people employed last year by occupation

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.9 MB]

Table 7. Engagements and other changes in employment of people employed last year by occupation

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[1.84 MB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 1 to 7

[↓ Download ZIP](#)
[10.59 MB]

Underemployed workers

[↓ Download all \(6.52 MB\)](#)

Table 1. Cyclical and structural underemployment of full-time and part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.48 MB]

Table 2. Extended measures of underutilisation

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[218.42 KB]

Table 3. Underemployment status of full-time and part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[225.85 KB]

Table 4. Part-time workers who prefer more hours

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[310.07 KB]

Table 5. Characteristics of part-time workers who prefer more hours

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.11 MB]

Table 6. Duration of insufficient hours of underemployed part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[2.31 MB]

Table 7. Number of extra weekly hours preferred by underemployed part-time workers

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[1.92 MB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 2 to 7

[↓ Download ZIP](#)
[3.91 MB]

Microdata and TableBuilder

[↓ Download all \(832.29 KB\)](#)

Table 1. Populations

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[581.39 KB]

Relative standard errors, Table 1

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[414.99 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6226.0 (6226.0.55.001 in 2014).

Post release changes

29 July 2025 - 1pm:

- Corrections were made to 'Changed jobs in last 12 months' in Job mobility Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Methodology

[Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia methodology, February 2025](#)